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(Provisional Agenda item 4(j))

# ENGINEERING INDUSTRIES AND AUTOMATION

(Commission decision N (45))

Report by the Executive Secretary

1. This report has been prepared pursuant to paragraph (4) of decision N (45).

2. The eleventh session of the Working Party on Engineering Industries and Automation was held from 20 to 22 February 1991. The Working Party agreed on its programme of work for 1991-1995, its calendar of planned and proposed meetings for 1991-1993 and its revised terms of reference for submission to the Commission (ECE/ENG.AUT/46 and Annexes I-III). In reaching these agreements the Working Party took into account the provisions of decision O (45) and the implications for its work.

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3. The twelfth Meeting on Questions of Statistics concerning Engineering Industries and Automation, held in October 1990, reviewed the draft of the Annual Review of Engineering Industries and Automation, 1989, which was published in February 1991 (ECE/ENG.AUT/44, vols.I and II). The Bulletin of Statistics on World Trade in Engineering Products, 1989 will be published in April 1991.

4. The first Workshop on Rehabilitation Engineering: REHAB-1, was held in Washington, D.C. (United States of America) in co-operation with the International Federation for Medical and Biological Engineering (IFMBE) and the Association for the Advancement of Rehabilitation and Assistive Technologies (RESNA) (ENG.AUT/AC.14/4 and proceedings Rehabilitation Engineering Technology: Demand - Priorities - Future Directions). The REHAB-2 Workshop will take place at Fagernes (Norway) from 12 to 15 May 1991 and the REHAB-3 Workshop in Prague (Czech and Slovak Federal Republic) in the Spring of 1992. The Working Party agreed that the REHAB-3 Workshop should preferably concentrate on issues of interest to economies in transition and on the preparation of a final publication, to be considered as a joint ECE/IFMBE contribution to mark the end of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons, 1983-1992 (see also para.10 below).

5. The Seminar on Air Pollution Control in Engineering Industries was held at Geneva from 12 to 16 November 1990, at the invitation of the Government of Switzerland. As a follow-up, the Working Party decided, at the invitation of the Government of the Byelorussian SSR, to organize a Seminar on Foundry Production and Ecology in conjunction with an exhibition and fair in Minsk, in 1993.

6. The study on Food-Processing Machinery, including Packaging Techniques has been finalized and will be published in 1991 (ECE/ENG.AUT/43). A study tour of the Hungarian food-processing industries will be organized in October 1991.

7. The Working Party agreed to organize a series of workshops on Adjustment of Engineering Industries in Economies in Transition. The first workshop will be held in Bulgaria and the Governments of other countries in transition will be invited to host similar workshops.

8. A first ad hoc Meeting for a study on the Medium- and Long-Term Trends and Prospects in Engineering Industries and Automation will be convened in October 1991. Work will also continue on the study of Low-Waste Technologies in Engineering Industries.

9. The Working Party will organize a Seminar on New Materials and their Application in Engineering Industries in Kiev (Ukrainian SSR) in October 1992.

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10. The Commission may wish:

(a) To take note of the report of the eleventh session of the Working Party on Engineering Industries and Automation (ECE/ENG.AUT/46) and the Report by the Executive Secretary (E/ECE/1241);

(b) To approve the programme of work for 1991-1995, the calendar of meetings for 1991-1993 and the revised terms of reference for the Working Party, as contained in annexes I, II and III, respectively, to document ECE/ENG.AUT/46;

(c) To entrust the secretariat with the preparation of a publication on rehabilitation engineering, to be considered as a contribution of the Commission to mark the end of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons, 1983-1992; and

(d) To request the Executive Secretary to report to the forty-seventh session of the Commission on the implementation of this decision.